

REMARKS

In the present Amendment, the Abstract has been amended to replace the word “comprises” with the word “includes.” Claim 1 has been amended to incorporate the subject matters of claims 3, 5 and 6. Accordingly, claims 3, 5 and 6 have been cancelled. No new matter has been added, and entry of the Amendment is respectfully requested.

Upon entry of the Amendment, claims 1-2, 4 and 7-15 will be pending.

In paragraph 2 of the Office Action, the Examiner objected to the Abstract.

As noted, the Abstract has been amended to address the Examiner’s concern. Accordingly, withdrawal of the objection is respectfully requested.

In paragraph 4 of the Office Action, claims 1-2, 4, 7-11 and 13 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by Yoshihiko et al (JP 2003-109850).

As noted, claim 1 has been amended to incorporate the subject matters of claims 3, 5 and 6, which are not subject to this rejection. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the § 102(b) rejection of claims 1-2, 4, 7-11 and 13 based on Yoshihiko et al ‘850 are respectfully requested.

In paragraph 5 of the Office Action, claims 1-4, 7-11 and 13 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by JP 11-067602.

As noted, claim 1 has been amended to incorporate the subject matters of claims 5 and 6, which are not subject to this rejection. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the § 102(b) rejection of claims 1-4, 7-11 and 13 based on JP ‘602 are respectfully requested.

In paragraph 6 of the Office Action, claims 1-2, 4, 7 and 12-13 [sic., 15] were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by JP 9-293647.

As noted, claim 1 has been amended to incorporate the subject matters of claims 3, 5 and 6, which are not subject to this rejection. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the § 102(b) rejection of claims 1-2, 4, 7 and 12-15 based on JP '647 are respectfully requested.

In paragraph 9 of the Office Action, claim 6 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Yoshihiko et al in view of Omori et al (JP 2003-213302).

As noted, claim 1 has been amended to incorporate the subject matters of claims 3, 5 and 6. Claim 3 is not subject to the rejection based on Yoshihiko et al. Accordingly, claim 1 as amended is patentable over Yoshihiko et al in view of Omori et al, since Omori et al does not make up for the deficiencies of Yoshihiko et al. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the § 103(a) rejection of claim 6 (now incorporated in claim 1) based on Yoshihiko et al in view of Omori et al are respectfully requested.

In paragraph 10 of the Office Action, claim 5 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Yoshihiko et al in view of Shiga et al (WO 02/11932).

Applicant submits that this rejection should be withdrawn for essentially the same reasons that the rejection of claim 6 based on Yoshihiko et al in view of Omori et al should be withdrawn as discussed above.

Allowance is respectfully requested. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

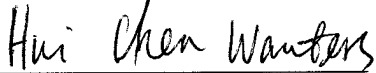
Respectfully submitted,

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